

BROADWAY P.F.

JOHN CHARLES OLMSTED. FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED, JR.

OLMSTED BROTHERS,
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS.

BROOKLINE, MASS.

10th June, 1904.

Mr. Charles W. Saunders, President
of Board of Park Commissioners, Seattle, Wash.

Dear Sir:-

Having forwarded our preliminary design for
Lincoln Park, we submit the following report thereon.

We understand that the Board having regard to the
very decided preferences of the citizens of the locality
have instructed us that no provision is to be made in
the design for the more vigorous forms of play, and parti-
cularly the design must be such as to make baseball im-
practicable.

The area not being large and the surface being a
simple inclined plane without trees or other controlling
features and the park being surrounded by residences of
a fairly good class and more likely to be better than
worse hereafter, we have deemed a formal design more
appropriate than an informal one.

This design will lend itself very readily to a more
ornate style of decoration than we consider suitable for
the present, considering the amount of money available
for maintenance.

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It is of the greatest importance in the case of a square situated in the midst of a fairly dense population as this is to provide abundant facilities for short-cutting. This our plan will secure to as great a degree as possible, while avoiding numerous straight walks.

You have instructed us that under no circumstances would the city add to the park the half block lying between it and the grounds of the imposing high school. Hence we have ignored the axis of the high school in our present design.

The great jet of water at the centre of the reservoir forms such a conspicuous and attractive feature that we have made the axis of our formal design pass through this jet, and to accentuate this idea and also to unfit the lawn for baseball, we indicate a row of trees on each side of the axis, an obtrusion upon the breadth and simple beauty of the lawn which we should be very loath to advise under ordinary circumstances. These two rows of trees and those following the oval walk are designed to be trees with purple foliage, the former beech and the latter hazel. Such an enclosure of the central lawn by purple foliage will give this park a very marked individuality, as there are few trees handsomer and more striking in effect than those mentioned. The double row of purple beeches will form a remarkable vista setting of the tall water jet to the greatest possible advantage. To still

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further call attention to this crowning ornament of the park, we suggest a pergola at the lower end of the oval where visitors may sit in the shade and watch the jet: this and the shrubbery back of it will also arrest short-cutting to some extent.

The foliage on the outer border of the park is intended to ~~be~~ more varied than that enclosing the oval. A little grading down on the west side of the park and a corresponding grading up on the east side seems well worth what it will cost as an aid to symmetry.

Yours respectfully,

Olmsted Brothers,

per S.